



STATE OF WASHINGTON
WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF HEALTH
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June 13, 2001

TO: Washington State Board of Health Members

FROM: Carl Osaki

RE: WAC 246-290, Group "A" Public Water Systems

Background and Summary:

The Board has the authority to adopt rules governing Group "A" Public Water Systems. The Department of Health (DOH) has been implementing WAC 246-290, which addresses these Group "A" systems. These rules are adoptions of federal rules, as promulgated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). EPA published final rules that address four areas relevant to WAC 246-290: (1) public notification requirements, (2) disinfection profiling and benchmarking, (3) a maximum contaminant level for radionuclides; and (4) lead and copper corrosion control measures. Final adoptions of the EPA rules are required to be in place by December 2002.

While some water systems may be concerned about additional requirements specified in these rules (i.e., shorter time frames for public notification or more frequent monitoring of radionuclides), the additional requirements serve as proactive public health measures. I am not aware of any controversy that would cause the Board to retain authority for the revision of WAC 246-290. For this reason, I propose that the Board delegate this particular rule revision to DOH.

Recommended Board Motions:

The State Board of Health shall delegate the proposed revision of WAC 246-290, Group "A" Public Water Systems to the Washington Department of Health.